THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Similar suggestions have been considered in the past also and Government's view is that legislation for the purpose is not feasible.

Amnesty International's letter to Bihar Chief Minister

2422. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI. Will the Minster of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Amnesty International had addressed a letter dated 20th September, 1988 to the Chief Minister of Bihar regarding violation of human rights in that State and that no reply has been given by the Chief Minister; and

(b) what are the instances of human rights voilations in Bihar state pointed out in the said letter of Amnesty International and what is the reaction of the Bihar Government to the letter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to a report received from the State Govt. a letter of Amensty International dated 26th January, 1989, was received in the Office of Chief Minister, Bihar Various incidents of alleged human rights violations mentioned in the above said letter have been enquired into and appropriate action has been taken by the law enforcement agencies. The report received from the State Govt. is under examination in the Govt. of India.

Riot victims claims

2423. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a news-item published in the 'Hindu' of 18th January, 1989 datelined Bombay, Mr. Ashok Goenka, Chairman of General Insurance Corporation had announced liberalisation of procedures to settle the claims of victims of the recent riots in Coastal Andhra Pradesh; if so, what are the details of such liberalisation; and

(b) what was the procedure adopted in case of 1984 October/November Delhi riot victim claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The general insurance industry has given various relaxations for handling the claims arising out of riots in Andhra Pradesh such as acceptance of the certificate from the district officials in lieu of regular FIR/Police Report/Fire Brigade Report, acceptance of extracts from the records of Regional Transport Authorities in case of loss of R.C. Book and resultant delay in obtaining duplicate R.C. Book, acceptance of evidence from sources like Commercial Tax Returns/Damage Certificate by district authorities in cases where accounts books are not available, enhancement of the financial authority of the Regional Managers by one step to expedite disposal of claims at that level. Where insurance policies could not be renewed during the period of disturbances in Coastal Andhra Pradesh due to the prevailing curfew in the area and where claims have been reported, such claims can be considered on expiring terms and conditions where Head Office is satisfied that genuinely the renewal advices could not be given because of the prevailing curfew and provided renewal advices alongwith premium were received immediately after normalisation of the situation. In addition to the above relaxations, the GIC has asked the Companies to appiont large number of surveyors

including surveyors from outside the State of Andhra Pradesh in order to expedite finalisation of survey reports.

(b) Similar relaxations, as given for dealing with the claims arising out of riots in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, were given for handling claims arising out of Delhi Riots in October/November, 1984. However, at that time, the Riot Risk was not covered as a standard peril but it was to be included as an extraneous peril on payment of addtional premium. This consideration does not apply in the case of Andhra Pradesh Riots as Riots, Strike and Malicious Damage Risks have since been included in the standard cover under Fire and Motor Policies.

Public sector projects financed by the Asian Development Bank

2424. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the projects in public sector which are being financed by the Asian Development Bank; and

(b) what are the projects for which ADB is going to finance in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank has so far committed $920.6 million against six projects in the power and infrastructure sectors. These projects are:

	US $ Million
North Madras Thrmal Power Project	150.0
Ports Development Project	87.6
Railways Project	190.0
First Tele-communication Project	135.0
Unchahar Thermal Power Extension Project	160.0
Road Improvement Project	198.0

In addition, negotiations have been held for a loan of US $ 118 million for a Second Tele-communications Projects, and a formal commitment to this effect from ADB is expected within the next financial year.

The pipeline of projects for the future is at present indeterminate, since this would depend upon the availability of ADB financing, and the status of preparation and processing of individual projects.

Dismissal/Retrenchment in Banks

2425. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of employees of nationalised banks who have been dismissed or retrenched during the last two financial years and during the current financial year;

(b) what are the reasons for these dismissals and retrenchments; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Government in this matter and how many these have been reinstated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) According to information made available by 15 nationalised banks 1137 employees in various cadres are reported to have been dismissed/removed/retired/retrenched during the current as well as last two financial years for reasons like misconducts/conviction by Courts. Action of dismissal/removal etc. is taken by the competent authority of the respective banks under the provisions of service rules governing the employees and reinstatement, if any is also considered by the management. 71 employees of the banks are reported to have been reinstated during the period under reference.

Loss of Forests due to felling of Trees and Fire in Uttar Pradesh

2426. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated loss of forests due to fire and felling of trees in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;